

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 9, 2005 has been carefully considered. Claims 1-13 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 13 being the only independent claims. Claim 13 has been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended herein and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 was added in the Amendment dated June 13, 2005 to constitute dependent claim 10 written in independent form, containing all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. In the Office Action dated March 14, 2005, dependent claim 10 had been deemed allowable. Claim 13 has been amended herein to include certain limitations that had been inadvertently omitted as compared to dependent claim 10, and to correct some typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Claim 13 was objected to because it recited that the first and second isolating sleeves are configured to comprise the floor of the chamber. Initially, it is noted that this limitation appeared in claim 10 as it stood allowed as of the Office Action dated March 14, 2005. In addition, Applicants believe the current objection to claim 13 is unwarranted because as shown in Fig. 3, the first sleeve 16a and the second isolating sleeve 16b can constitute the floor (and walls) of the chamber 13. Applicants, however, have amended claim 13 to recite that the first and second isolating sleeves comprise a wall of the chamber so that claim 13 now covers both the embodiment shown in Figs 1A and the embodiment shown in Fig. 3. In view of these explanations and amendment, and in view of the fact that the subject matter of claim 13 was previously deemed to be patentable, entry of the amendment and withdrawal of the objection of claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,830,395 (Foley). Applicants respectfully traverse because Foley fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, each and every element as set forth in claim 13.

In particular, Foley does not disclose a curable material. As Applicants explained in the Amendment dated June 13, 2005 (page 5), the term "curable" in the claims of the present application is meant to indicate that the curable material is in a liquid state while being filled into the chamber, but it is in a solid state when transmitting a supporting force from the cylinder to the spring collar. Foley does not disclose or suggest such a "curable" material because the seal ring 64 is always in a solid state when it is being installed in the weight jack 10. See Col. 4, line 19-23; Fig.

4. In contrast, claim 13 recites a curable material, which, when in a solid state, transmits a supporting force from the cylinder to the spring collar.

In view of this difference, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 is not anticipated by Foley, and withdrawal of this rejection is in order.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1-4, 6, 7, 11 and 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,767,010 and over claims 1, 3 and 4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,854,722. To overcome this rejection, a Terminal Disclaimer and a Certificate Under 37 CFR 3.73(b) are submitted herewith. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.


Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims do not raise any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment and submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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